NABARD for excluding ineligible claims and penal and compound interest. Such revised claims have not yet been received from them by NABARD.

(d) and (e) The ARDR Scheme, 1990 came to a close on 31st March, 1991 and there is no proposal to introduce any such scheme in future. The endeavour is to revitalise the rural credit system and develop a healthy recovery climate for recycling of the loans.

Rupee vis-a-vis Dollar and Pound

5439. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the real effective exchange rate of Rupee since May 1993 till February 1994 in relation to Dollar and Pound;

(b) whether the Rupee has appreciated in relation to Pound and Dollar during the above period;

(c) if so, the percentage appreciation of the Rupee;

(d) whether this has an adverse impact on our exporters; and

(e) if so, steps taken to keep the value of the Rupee steady as compared to Pound and Dollar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (c) The nominal and real effective exchange rates of the Rupee are monitored on the basis of a 5-country and a 10-country export-weighted indices. The real effective exchange rate (REER) of the Rupee appreciated to the extent of 9-10 per cent according to these indices since May 1993 to February 1994.

(d) Although REER of the Rupee has been appreciating, the average level of REER during 1993-94 remained almost equal to the average level of 1992-93 and as such the impact on exporters may not be adverse for the year as a whole in comparison to the previous year. In fact, exports have risen sharply by 20.6 per cent during April-February 1993-94 over the same period of 1992-93.

(e) Does not arise.

Current Account Balance

5440. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the current account balance during the year 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and April to December 1994;

(b) what are the reasons for lowering of the current account balance in recent years; and

(c) what has been the performance of invisible so far as country's balance of payment is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) India's current account balance for the years 1990-91 through 1993-94 (April—September) is given below (Table-1).

Table 1

India's Current Account Balance

(US $ million)

		1990-91 (Preliminary)	1991-92 (Provisional)	1992-93 (Quick Estimates)	April—September (Quick Estimates) 1992-93	1993-94
1	Exports f.o.b.	18,477	19,223	18,789	8,720	10,590
2.	Imports c.i.f.	27,914	20,347	22,895	11,852	11,436
3.	Trade balance	−9,437	−2,124	−4,106	−3,132	−846
4.	Invisibles (net)	−242	−11	−815	−336	−92
5.	Current Account Balance	−9,679	−2,135	−4,921	−3,468	−938

Note : Imports data do not include gold and silver brought in by Indians returning from abroad.

(b) The sharp reduction in the current deficit in 1991-92 from the level recorded in 1990-91 reflects the effects of the import compression measures put in place as part of the adjustment strategy to counter the effects of the payments crisis which followed in the wake of the Gulf war of 1990. During the year 1993-94, according to the partial data available, the distinct narrowing of the current account deficit mirrors the strong improvement in the merchandise trade balance brought about by a robust growth in exports and sluggish import demand.

(c) The invisibles account is estimated to have recorded a deficit of US $ 92 million during the first half of 1993-94 which is significantly lower than the deficit of US $ 336 million during April—September 1992.

Balance of Payment

5441. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) how Government monitory country's Balance of Payment position;

(b) what are the norms prescribed for the management of country's balance of payment;

(c) whether I.M.F. and World Bank are satisfied with the performance of various components of country's balance of payment; and

(d) if so, their reaction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India is principally responsible for monitoring and analysing the country's BOP position. Developments in various components of the country's balance of payments are kept under close monitoring by the Ministry of Finance in coordination with the RBI with a view to maintain its continued viability and permit the required policy intervention.

(c) and (d) The I.M.F. has expressed satisfaction over the performance of India's balance of payments. As the country's balance of payments has imporoved considerably we do not expect any dissatisfaction from the World Bank either on this account.

Debt Service Commitments

5442. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the debt service commitments during the Eighth Five Year Plan, yearly;

(b) whether it is a fact that debt servicing is expected to peak in the year 1996-97;

(c) if so, how Government propose to meet the situation, as debt service consumes 54 per cent of revenue receipts;

(d) whether Government have prepared any strategy to face the situation arising out of higher debt servicing by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The debt service commitments during the first three years of the Eighth Five Year Plan are as under :—

(Rs. crores)

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
	(Actuals)	(RE)	(BE)
1. Repayment debt (excluding 91 days Treasury Bills, Reserve Funds and deposits not bearing interest and suspense transactions)	38457	48412	63637
2. Interest payments	30968	37500	46006
	69425	85912	109631